



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### For Immediate Release

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### **DEQ and EPA continue cleanup of oil spill in Crowley**

**BATON ROUGE** – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and EPA continue to cleanup an oil spill in Crowley.

On May 28, DEQ was notified of oil in Bayou Blanc. Emergency Responders for the City of Crowley and DEQ found the oil and traced it back through the bayou to a punctured tank located near the railroad tracks. The oil had snaked its way through ditches and heavy underbrush to reach Bayou Blanc. The oil affected approximately 1.6 miles of a nearby drainage canal and Bayou Blanc.

Once DEQ was notified, efforts to clean up the site began. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was brought in, and contractors were hired to clean up the areas impacted by the oil. The initial cleanup consisted of vacuum trucks, skimmers, absorbents and a comprehensive booming strategy to control the oil. Approximately 8,000 gallons of oil have been recovered so far.

Currently, there are no visible signs of oil in Bayou Blanc. However, in the event of precipitation, the water may wash oil which may be trapped in debris along the banks of the bayou. To help control any oil that seeps into the bayou, absorbent boom has been deployed at strategic locations along the bayou.

During the cleanup period, several local farmers worked with the EPA to maintain sufficient water levels in Bayou Blanc in order to allow the spilled oil to be collected and minimize the impact to the bayou. DEQ and EPA would like to thank these farmers for their valuable assistance.

Other agencies assisting were the city of Crowley, Crowley Fire and Police Department, Acadia Parish Sheriff Department, and Acadia Parish Police Jury.

The cause of the release is still under investigation by DEQ and EPA.